
"Partnering to promote, protect and preserve health in our community."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

EBOLA VIRUS UPDATE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Ebola Virus Disease: New PPE Guidelines, Instructions for Public Health Consultation and Reporting, and Patient Evaluation and Management

October 22, 2014

This Health Alert Network message provides updated information for healthcare providers who suspect a patient has Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

New Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidance on personal protective equipment to be used by healthcare workers during management of patients with EVD in U.S. hospitals, including procedures for putting on (donning) and removing (doffing). Guidance can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>.

Consultation with Idaho Public Health for Ebola Virus Disease

During normal business hours, clinicians should contact Epidemiologists at Central District Health Department at 208-327-8625 or the Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention at 208-334-5939. For after-hours consultation please call State Communications (State Comm) at 1-800-632-8000.

Reporting Suspect Cases of Ebola Virus Disease (Patient Under Investigation)

If a clinician determines a patient likely meets the definition of a Patient Under Investigation (See below for definition), call State Comm at 1-800-632-8000. State Comm will facilitate a coordinated response.

Public Health Officials will require additional exposure information to determine the patients' level of risk of Ebola Virus Disease and determine if diagnostic testing should be done.

Risk information that will be requested includes:

- **High Risk Exposures:** Patient has had percutaneous or mucous membrane exposure to blood or body fluids from an EVD patient; direct skin contact with skin, blood, or body fluids from an EVD patient; has processed blood or body fluids from and EVD patient without appropriate PPE; or has had direct contact with a dead body in an Ebola-affected area without appropriate PPE.

- **Low Risk Exposures:** Patient is a household member of an EVD patient, has had brief direct contact (e.g., shaking hands) with an EVD patient without appropriate PPE, or is a healthcare worker that worked in a facility with EVD patients and has been in care areas of EVD patients without recommended PPE.

See <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>

Initial Considerations When Caring for a Patient Under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease

If the patient meets clinical and epidemiological criteria, they should be immediately isolated and healthcare personnel should follow their facility protocols for infection prevention. **If the healthcare setting is inadequate to provide appropriate isolation, the patient should be transported to the nearest acute care facility with isolation capacity.** At a minimum, standard, contact, and droplet precautions should be implemented. (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/could-it-be-ebola.pdf>)

If, after consultation with public health, it is determined the patient meets the criteria for a patient under investigation, the CDC has newly published recommendations for caring for that patient that can be adopted by healthcare workers in clinics and hospitals: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/caring-for-ebola-suspects.html>

Criteria for Classification of Patient Under Investigation

A clinically compatible EVD illness includes:

- FEVER (subjective or >100.4 F or 38.0 C) AND
- ADDITIONAL SYMPTOMS such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>).

Epidemiologic risk factors within the last 21 days:

- travel to an area with Ebola Virus Disease cases (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html>) OR
- exposure to a person with EVD.

Additional Guidance

The following guidance should be used to determine what contact information to post on entryways and in registration areas at clinics and a process for patient transportation to, and notification of, destination Emergency Departments and transport agencies (e.g., EMS).

- Hospital Settings: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>
- Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings: <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ebola/Documents/ebola-preparedness-considerations.pdf>

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